

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Original: English

**Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation
in Abkhazia, Georgia****I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1364 (2001) of 31 July 2001, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 31 January 2002. It provides an update on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, since my report of 24 October 2001 (S/2001/1008).

2. My Special Representative for Georgia, Dieter Boden, continues to head UNOMIG. He is assisted in his task by the Chief Military Observer, Major General Anis Ahmed Bajwa (Pakistan). The strength of UNOMIG on 1 January 2002 stood at 107 military observers (see annex).

II. Political process

3. A significant step forward was taken in mid-December when my Special Representative, in consultation with the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General, was able to finalize the paper on "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi". More than two years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1255 (1999) of 30 July 1999, mandating my Special Representative to submit proposals for the consideration of the parties on the distribution of constitutional competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi as part of a comprehensive settlement, there is now a text and a letter of transmittal that have the full support of all members of the Group of Friends. They are to be presented to the parties as a basis for

meaningful negotiations on the future status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia.

4. Subsequently, my Special Representative held consultations in Sukhumi and Tbilisi to prepare the ground for substantive negotiations on the basis of the competences paper. The Special Envoy of the Russian Federation also visited Sukhumi for the same purpose. During these consultations, the Abkhaz de facto Prime Minister, Anri Bergenia, rejected any suggestion that Abkhazia was "within the State of Georgia" and was not prepared to receive the paper and transmittal letter.

5. A major stumbling block has been the continued presence of Georgian troops in the Kodori Valley in violation of the 1994 Moscow Agreement. They were deployed in October in connection with the fighting and bombardments in the area (see S/2001/1008, paras. 18-23). The Abkhaz side has stated that it is not willing to discuss any subject with the Georgian side as long as these forces have not been withdrawn. My Special Representative repeatedly urged the Georgian side to comply with the 1994 Moscow Agreement and withdraw the troops. The Group of Friends undertook a similar démarche on 14 December. On 15 and 17 January 2002, my Special Representative brought the two sides together for direct talks on the situation in the Kodori Valley. They agreed on a protocol providing that UNOMIG would resume patrolling on 1 February 2002 based on security arrangements to be worked out with both parties and confirm that there are no heavy weapons in the lower Kodori Valley and the Tqvarcheli area; that simultaneously Georgia would begin the withdrawal of its troops; and that the Abkhaz side would undertake not to deploy forces in the upper part of the valley and not to take military action against the civilian population. They further agreed to meet again



in the first 10 days of February to determine when the withdrawal should be completed.

6. In the wake of the October events in the Kodori Valley, the contacts between the sides came practically to a standstill. No meetings were held within the framework of the Coordinating Council, nor could any progress be made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Assessment Mission to the Gali district (see S/2001/59, annex II) to alleviate the plight of displaced persons and returnees. Public statements by political figures further disturbed the atmosphere, including statements by some Georgian politicians intimating that they had not completely ruled out a military option.

7. The lack of movement was partly attributable to internal developments on both sides. In Tbilisi, the dismissal of the Georgian Government on 1 November 2001 effectively immobilized the executive until mid-December. In Sukhumi, the Abkhaz leader, Vladislav Ardzinba, was incapacitated by illness and de facto Prime Minister Jergenja faced an unprecedented no-confidence vote in the Parliament on 31 October, which he, however, won by 28 votes to 7.

III. Operations of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

8. UNOMIG continued regular patrolling in its area of responsibility, except the Georgian-controlled upper part of the Kodori Valley. Patrols were conducted from UNOMIG headquarters in Sukhumi and sector headquarters in Gali and Zugdidi. The military observers aimed to patrol every village in the security zone once a week and in the restricted weapons zone every two weeks. On 20 December, UNOMIG and the peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) resumed joint ground patrols in the Abkhaz-controlled lower Kodori Valley, which had been suspended after the October hostilities. The Chief Military Observer has been exploring, in consultation with the two sides and the CIS peacekeeping force, modalities for resuming patrols in the upper part of the valley.

9. UNOMIG conducted two air patrols in the Zugdidi sector since the downing of its helicopter on 8 October (see S/2001/1008, para.20). However, the air patrols were suspended when UNOMIG received information about an irregular armed group with

missile launchers. At present, only high priority flights, such as medical evacuations, are allowed over land.

10. From 27 to 31 October, aircraft conducted bombing raids at the Marukh pass north of the Kodori Valley, near the Russian border. The Abkhaz side took responsibility for those bombings. Since then, the situation in the area of operation has remained relatively calm but unstable. Nine shooting incidents were reported, among them, on 10 November, an attack on the Tagiloni customs post on the Abkhaz-controlled side of the ceasefire line; an Abkhaz official was killed and another seriously wounded. On 17 November, an armed group ambushed a CIS peacekeeping force patrol 30 km north-east of Zugdidi, injuring one CIS soldier. On 29 December, an armed group attacked the head of Pirveli Gali administration, who returned fire and killed one of the assailants. On three occasions, in the second half of December, checkpoints of the CIS peacekeeping force came under small arms fire; two soldiers were wounded.

11. As in the past, crime has escalated in the Gali area with the beginning of the mandarin harvest. This has highlighted again the weakness of law enforcement in the area. Abductions also continued on both sides of the ceasefire line. Direct negotiations between Georgian and Abkhaz local authorities resulted in exchanges, on 15 and 31 December, of four Abkhaz and two bodies against the bodies of five Georgians. However, the Abkhaz side still holds at least four civilians and five fighters taken prisoner during the hostilities in the Kodori Valley. No confirmed information is available about the number of people held on the Georgian side.

12. In the Zugdidi area, on 21 and 25 December, groups of internally displaced persons blocked UNOMIG patrols in protests aimed at pressuring the Georgian authorities to pay their allowances. Each time, the military observers were able to leave safely and the incidents were resolved together with the local authorities.

13. The Joint Fact-Finding Group, which brings together the two sides, the CIS peacekeeping force and UNOMIG, concluded investigations into six cases identified as violations of the 1994 Moscow Agreement or as politically motivated. Another five cases were closed because of the lack of information. The Joint Fact-Finding Group continued to face problems in ensuring continuity of evidence, e.g. by sealing the scene of incidents pending the Group's arrival and

ensuring relevant representation at its meetings, especially by the Abkhaz side.

IV. Security situation

14. Security remained of particular concern to the Mission. Two mine incidents in the Gali region, involving local civilians, and two in the Kodori Valley, involving CIS patrols, demonstrated that mines still constitute a threat. UNOMIG suspended its patrolling in the affected areas until mine searches were undertaken by the CIS peacekeeping force. Some restrictions on patrolling were also imposed in the Zugdidi sector following the discovery of two containers with radioactive materials near Potskhoztseri at the end of December.

15. As in the past, UNOMIG personnel continued to be victims of personal crimes. In the past three months, one armed robbery, one theft from a vehicle and one attempted robbery were reported. The comparatively small number of incidents can be attributed, in part, to improved security measures, which are constantly updated.

16. The technical investigation of the helicopter shot down on 8 October (see S/2001/1008, para. 20) continued. It is led by Ukraine, the country of registration of the helicopter.

V. Cooperation with the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

17. UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force continued their close cooperation at all levels, including joint patrols under the auspices of the Joint Fact-Finding Group and in the Kodori Valley. The Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG and the Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force held regular meetings and conducted jointly the weekly quadripartite meetings. Communication and exchange of information between UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force improved.

18. As previously reported, the Georgian Parliament adopted a resolution on 11 October 2001 calling for the withdrawal of the CIS peacekeeping force. In the absence of formal action by the Georgian Government,

the mandate of the force lapsed on 31 December. However, President Shevardnadze has since indicated publicly that Georgia was in favour of the extension on condition that the mandate is modified. Meanwhile, the CIS peacekeeping force continued with its normal operations.

VI. Humanitarian situation and human rights

19. International humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations continued their activities (see S/2001/1008, paras. 34 and 35) to assist the most vulnerable in Abkhazia, Georgia. Some programmes were suspended during the fighting in the Kodori Valley in October; most of those were resumed by early November. International non-governmental organizations continued to be hampered by restrictions on border crossings between Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Russian Federation at the Psou River.

20. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has almost completed the rehabilitation of 24 schools in the Gali district. Owing to events in the Kodori Valley and the situation in its area of operations, UNHCR did not, however, start rehabilitation of 20 additional schools as planned. In Sukhumi, UNHCR provided assistance to elderly displaced persons.

21. In November, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Government, in the presence of my Special Representative, signed an agreement whereby UNDP will implement, as part of the peace process, a telecommunications rehabilitation programme. This programme will serve displaced persons and returnees on both sides of the ceasefire line, extend links to Sukhumi and connect Tbilisi and the upper Kodori Valley. The Georgian and Abkhaz sides jointly identified the programme needs under the auspices of Working Group III of the Coordinating Council, which deals with socio-economic issues. The initial grant contribution from the German Government is \$150,000.

22. The human rights situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, remained difficult. The situation was particularly serious in the Gali district, where a high level of criminality and violence prevailed. The United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, continued to provide legal advice to the local population, monitor detention facilities and assist non-governmental

organizations. From 12 to 16 December, the office conducted a human rights training seminar for de facto Abkhaz law enforcement agencies. Violation of the right to freedom of speech has been of serious concern, in particular a harassment campaign against the editor of the weekly *Nuzhnaya Gazeta* and members of her family, who were stalked with demands to leave Abkhazia. The investigation into the assassination, on 15 August 2000, of Zurab Achba, a legal assistant at the human rights office, remains inconclusive despite appeals by my Special Representative to the local law enforcement agencies (see also S/2000/1023, para. 25; S/2001/59, para. 23, and S/2001/401, para. 29).

VII. Financial aspects

23. By its resolution 55/267 of 14 June 2001, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$27,896,341 (gross), equivalent to \$2,324,695 (gross) per month for UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. The assessment of these amounts is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 31 January 2002, as recommended in paragraph 28 below, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2002 would be limited to the monthly amounts approved by the General Assembly. I shall report to the General Assembly on the additional requirements needed, if any, for the maintenance of the Mission beyond 30 June 2002. As at 15 December 2001, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIG Special Account amounted to \$15 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$1.9 billion.

VIII. Observations

24. The last three months have seen progress in the political process. The finalization, after two years of discussions, of the paper on the distribution of competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi was a significant step forward. This paper now enjoys the support of all members of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, there are continuing objections, particularly on the Abkhaz side. It is worth emphasizing, therefore, that the paper on the distribution of competences is simply a means to open the door to substantive negotiations, in which the parties themselves will work out a settlement. Both

sides should seize the moment to advance along the road to a peaceful solution to the conflict and I urge in particular the Abkhaz side to review its position.

25. Relative calm returned to the UNOMIG area of operation following the hostilities of late summer and early autumn. Nevertheless, tensions remained high, fuelled by militant rhetoric, the continuing presence of Georgian troops in the upper Kodori Valley and uncertainty about the mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force. Here, the Georgian side can make a significant contribution. The agreement reached on 17 January on the withdrawal of the Georgian troops from the Kodori Valley is to be welcomed and should be implemented expeditiously and fully. Similarly, it is to be hoped that an agreement will be reached on the extension of the mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force.

26. The two sides should also make good use of the mechanisms of the Coordinating Council and implement the Yalta Programme of Action on Confidence-building, as well as the recommendations of the Joint Assessment Mission to the Gali district. The safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes is of prime importance. The Abkhaz side bears a particular responsibility to protect returnees in the Gali district and facilitate the return of the remaining displaced population.

27. Ensuring the safety and security of UNOMIG personnel remains a continuing concern. It is deplorable that neither those who shot down the UNOMIG helicopter on 8 October 2001 nor those who took UNOMIG personnel hostage on five occasions between 1997 and 2000 have yet been identified and brought to justice. Both sides have an obligation to provide security for the Mission so that it can carry out its mandate.

28. As developments over the last six months have again shown, UNOMIG continues to play an important role in the stabilization of the zone of conflict and in the search for a political settlement. I therefore recommend that its mandate be extended for a further six-month period, until 31 July 2002.

29. In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation to the Special Representative, Dieter Boden, and the Chief Military Observer, Major General Anis Ahmed Bajwa, for their leadership and to commend the members of the mission for their commitment and courage in carrying out their difficult and often dangerous tasks.

Annex

Countries providing military observers (as of January 2002)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Military observers</i>
Albania	1
Austria	2
Bangladesh	7
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Egypt	3
France	3
Germany	11
Greece	4
Hungary	7
Indonesia	4
Jordan	6
Pakistan	8
Poland	4
Republic of Korea	5
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	5
Switzerland	4
Turkey	5
Ukraine	3
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7
United States of America	2
Uruguay	3
Total	107

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Original: English

**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session**

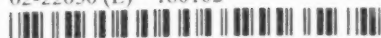
Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Fifty-seventh year****Identical letters dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

In the dark, early morning hours of today, Israeli F-16 warplanes attacked the Palestinian city of Tulkarem, destroying the governor's headquarters, reducing it to rubble. A Palestinian policeman was killed in the attack and more than 50 Palestinians were injured, including three who remain in serious condition.

Also today, in the city of Ramallah, Israeli occupying forces were reinforced and Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles moved to locations within only 30 yards of President Yasser Arafat's headquarters, intensifying the Israeli siege of both the city and the Palestinian Authority. Israeli occupying forces also fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas at Palestinian demonstrators in Ramallah, injuring several people, with at least one person in serious condition.

These attacks by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people severely undermine the tenuous and fragile ceasefire, which had been declared by President Arafat in a serious effort to bring calm to the dangerous situation on the ground. Even prior to the actions taken today by the Israeli forces, and prior to the attack that took place in Hadera, which was unequivocally condemned by the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli army deputy chief, General Moshe Yahalon, threatened an escalation of Israeli force by threatening the reoccupation of areas under the control of the Authority. The General has been quoted as stating on 17 January, "The army could be led to return to sectors it withdrew from after the Oslo Accords". Such statements reaffirm the notion that the Israeli government of Mr. Ariel Sharon is neither interested in calming the situation nor in a ceasefire, but is clearly more interested in continuing its assaults against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority and causing more deaths, injuries and destruction. This has been clearly documented in our previous letters to you detailing the ongoing Israeli war crimes, State terrorism and other violations in the weeks since the declaration of this most recent ceasefire.



In follow-up to my previous 90 letters to you regarding the continuing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 14 January 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239; A/ES-10/134-S/2001/126; A/ES-10/136-S/2002/18; A/ES-10/137-S/2002/39; A/ES-10/138-S/2002/48 and A/ES-10/139-S/2002/58), it is my regret to inform you that since my last letter to you the Israeli occupying forces have killed 2 more Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.) With these killings, the number of Palestinians killed since 28 September 2000 now totals 847 martyrs. Regrettably, the number of Palestinians injured, many seriously, by the Israeli occupying forces also continues to rise. The Israeli government must be held accountable for all of these killings and injuries and all of the destruction it has wreaked throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

**Annex to the identical letters dated 18 January 2002 from the
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

**Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the
Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem*
(Thursday, 17 January 2002, to Friday, 18 January 2002)**

Thursday, 17 January 2002

- I. Khamees Ahmed Ali Abdallah

Friday, 18 January 2002

- I. Jamal Al Aswad

* Total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 = 847.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 January 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

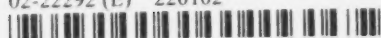
Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the action taken by the United States naval forces against the oil tanker *Sandy*, leased by the National Iranian Tanker Company, in the Persian Gulf on 19 December 2001, I have the honour to state the following:

The above-said ship, on completing loading at Al Jubail (Saudi Arabia) on 17 December 2001, had proceeded to discharge her cargo at the port of Abadan (Iran). En route, the United States naval forces at Soorbya Oilfield inspected the tanker on the same day. After acquiring clearance from the United States Navy, the ship proceeded to Abadan anchorage, where it arrived at 0500 hours on 18 December 2001 awaiting the pilot and tide. The Iranian pilot went onboard at 1630 hours on the same day. The ship was then positioned at 29 49.80 N and 048 47.40 E where the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys full sovereignty.

At 0200 hours, 19 December 2001, the United States naval forces approached and surrounded the vessel and attacked the ship and its crew aggressively. They destroyed the vessel's equipment, hit and held the crew at gunpoint, and interrogated them in a harsh and insulting manner. In fact, the ship's Master was badly beaten and handcuffed for several hours. The Iranian pilot was also treated brutally and inhumanely. The United States forces also took away the vessel's manifest and the crew's passports and belongings.

At 1720 hours, 19 December 2001, the ship was finally released and the detained documents were returned to the Master. Following such an unlawful action taken by the United States naval forces, and in order to avoid another unfortunate incident, the vessel was instructed by the National Iranian Tanker Company to proceed to the port of Mahshahr (Iran) for discharging. At 1020 hours, 20 December 2001, the ship arrived at Mahshahr port, where its injured personnel were taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the action taken by the United States forces in the Persian Gulf against the aforesaid vessel, and considers such action as a blatant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Iran also believes that such an unlawful practice jeopardizes the peace, stability and security in the region and is incompatible with the norms and principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions. Iran therefore holds the Government of the United States liable for the damage made to



its interests and nationals as a result of the irresponsible action taken by the United States Navy against the above-said oil tanker.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi **Nejad Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Security Council

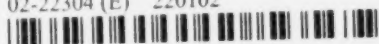
Distr.: General
21 January 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which was held in Luanda on 17 and 18 December 2001, and request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ismael A. Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

**Final Communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation
17-18 December 2001
Luanda, Angola**

1. The meeting of the Committee of Ministers responsible for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation was held in Luanda, Angola on 17-18 December 2001 under the chairpersonship of Hon. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique.
2. The meeting was attended by Ministers from the following Member States:
Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Permanent Secretaries led the delegations of Botswana and Swaziland while the High Commissioner of Seychelles to South Africa represented his country.
3. The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Angola, Hon. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos on behalf of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Mr. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos stressed that terrorism, because of its motivations and effects, must always be considered a crime against humanity and must be fought worldwide according to international law. He noted that in the context of Angola, terrorism has manifested itself in the massacre of hundreds of innocent civilians and the kidnapping of children, particularly during the second half of 2001.
4. In his statement, the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, Hon. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique noted that this is the first integrated meeting of Ministers within the provisions of the SADC Protocol of Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation which aims at the promotion of regional peace and security.
5. In passing a Vote of Thanks, Hon. Prof. Philemon Sarungi, the Minister of Defence and National Service of the United Republic of Tanzania, representing the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security commended the Government and people of Angola for their perseverance in the face of persistent threats of destabilization and aggression by UNITA-SAVIMBI.
6. The Ministers received briefings on the political situation and developments in the SADC region and noted that generally, the region enjoys relative peace and security except in the case of a few countries. The Ministers noted that the region remains seized of these issues and is collectively engaged in the management of these conflicts.

7. On Angola, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that relative peace now prevails as a result of the Government Peace Plan which is a combination of military, economic, political and social efforts. The Ministers further noted that the Angolan Armed Forces have recovered vast tracks of territory previously held by UNITA-SAVIMBI. The UNITA-SAVIMBI combatants are now scattered and can only resort to isolated acts of banditry. Hundreds of UNITA-SAVIMBI combatants are giving themselves up and the government has set up a fund to re-integrate them into society and the same is happening to thousands of civilians. The government has established full administration throughout the national territory and this has significantly contributed to an improvement in the free movement of people, goods and services.

8. The Ministers commended the Government of Angola for maintaining constant dialogue with civil society, political and religious leadership in its continued search for a durable political solution to the conflict in the country, in a spirit of national reconciliation.

9. Despite the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council on UNITA-SAVIMBI, the Ministers noted that the rebel movement continues to enjoy assistance from various sources around and beyond the region. Ministers also expressed concern on the continued existence of offices, web sites, publications and other facilities in support of UNITA-SAVIMBI around the world. Ministers pledged their commitment to doing everything possible to ensure that national territories are not used for activities aimed at undermining the implementation of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against UNITA-SAVIMBI.

10. The Ministers observed that the Supplementary Report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions Against UNITA-SAVIMBI reveals the existence of a complex network through which UNITA-SAVIMBI continues to explore for and sell diamonds.

11. The Ministers called for the continuation and intensification of sanctions against Dr. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement in order to bring the rebel movement to dialogue and to compel it to comply with the provisions of the Lusaka Peace Protocol.

12. The Ministers strongly condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Jonas Savimbi.

13. The Ministers also adopted the recommendations of the Principal Secretaries of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee, which convened a consultative meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, on 20-21 November 2001 on the inclusion of UNITA-SAVIMBI on the list of terrorist organizations, as well as the strict fulfilment of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against UNITA-SAVIMBI concerning the freezing of the movement's bank accounts.

14. With regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Ministers noted that efforts to find a lasting solution to the DRC conflict are beginning to bear fruit and in this regard the second deployment of MONUC forces will start soon. With regard to the internal dialogue, the Ministers welcomed continued consultations between the government and other political actors in the DRC. However, the Ministers noted with concern that the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD) which opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 October 2001 had to be postponed primarily due to inadequate funding. The Ministers further welcomed the financial

contributions made by South Africa and Malawi towards the ICD and urged other SADC Member States to support the dialogue. The Ministers reiterated the SADC appeal to the international community to make financial pledges and actual disbursements of funds in order to ensure the success of the ICD, which holds the key to the peaceful resolution of the DRC conflict. The Ministers expressed the hope that the dialogue will resume at the end of January 2002 in South Africa as planned.

15. The Ministers expressed gratitude to the international cooperating partners which have consistently supported the Peace Agreement on the DRC and urged them to continue this support until peace and security returns to that country.

16. The Ministers noted the withdrawal of some military forces from the DRC and called upon all uninvited forces to withdraw without any further delay.

17. In the case of Lesotho, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that preparations are being finalized for elections to be held in Lesotho during the first half of 2002. All political parties have been working together with the Independent Electoral Commission and the Independent Political Authority to ensure free and fair elections in 2002.

18. The Ministers noted that in Zambia, tripartite (presidential, parliamentary and local government) elections are to take place in Zambia on 27 December 2001 during which a new President will be elected. They noted that the atmosphere in the run-up to the elections has been peaceful, thereby providing an environment conducive to free and fair elections. The Ministers noted that Zambia was working closely with Angola and the DRC to address the security situation along their common borders.

19. On Zimbabwe, the Ministers noted progress with regard to the Land Reform and Resettlement programme and the completion of the communal decongestion programme and that work on the commercial farms resettlement has started. The Ministers noted the Communiqué of the Ministerial Task Force on Developments in Zimbabwe which met on 10-11 December 2001 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Among other things, the Ministerial Task Force on Developments in Zimbabwe noted the following:

- that violence on the farms had reduced significantly and that the few reported incidents were being dealt with under the criminal justice system;
- that farming activities on both communal and commercial land had intensified; and
- the commitment by the government of Zimbabwe to free and fair elections scheduled to be held before the end of March 2002 including the instituting of mechanisms to guard against violence and ensure transparency.

20. The Ministers noted with appreciation Zimbabwe's commitment to invite and welcome observers during the pre-election campaign period as well as the voting process. They also noted that this was a clear indication of the government's intention to ensure free and fair elections.

21. The Ministers also reiterated SADC's opposition to sanctions against Zimbabwe as envisaged in the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Bill, which was passed recently by the United States Congress, and the European Parliament *smart sanctions* resolution. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to support

Zimbabwe in the proposed dialogue with the European Union under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

22. On the issue of terrorism, the Ministers unanimously reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its manifestations. The Ministers noted that several SADC Member States have been victims of terrorism, which has resulted in the loss of innocent lives, maiming of innocent civilians and massive destruction to social and economic infrastructures but also threaten the security of the nation States and the world community. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to employing all the resources at their disposal to fight the scourge of terrorism and ensure peace and security for the world.

23. The Ministers urged all Member States to ratify, accede to, where appropriate, and implement the 1999 Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and relevant United Nations conventions on terrorism as well as to enact appropriate national legislation to combat terrorism. The Ministers also directed the SADC Inter-State Defence and Security Committee to develop appropriate legal instruments and a plan of action to combat terrorism at the regional level.

24. The Ministers also produced a draft declaration on terrorism to be presented to the Summit for consideration and approval.

25. On the funding of the activities of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, the Ministers approved the development of an Indicative Strategic Plan for the Organ (ISPO) which will clearly spell out the cost of the implementation of the activities of the Organ as well as a strategy for cooperation with regional and international cooperating partners.

26. During their stay in Angola, the Ministers paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to whom they expressed their admiration and acknowledgement for the continued effort taken in search of peace and stability in Angola and the region as a whole.

27. The Ministers expressed sincere gratitude for the generous and warm hospitality extended to them during the meeting and the facilities provided by the Government of the Republic of Angola for the meeting.

Luanda, Republic of Angola
18 December 2001



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 January 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to inform you that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1386 (2001), the Parliament of Romania has approved a decision authorizing the participation of 48 military personnel and one C-130 Hercules carrier aircraft, including 25 military police, 20 air force military personnel and three liaison officers, in the International Security Assistance Force deployed in Afghanistan under the leadership of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Romanian military personnel is ready to be deployed since 10 January and will be deployed within 24 hours after the decision of the Force Commander is issued.

I would appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Alexandru Niculescu
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

